

NEWS RELEASE from

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LIPINSKI ANNOUNCES INTRODUCTION OF \$375 BILLION HIGHWAY & TRANSIT BILL

Illinois Would Receive \$12.67 Billion In Federal Transportation Funds Under New Legislation

[Washington, D.C.] Congressman Bill Lipinski today joined his colleagues on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in introducing the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA LU), a \$375 billion, six-year highway and transit funding bill.

Lipinski, the top Democrat on the House Subcommittee on Highways, Transit, & Pipelines, played a significant role in writing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), which authorized \$218 billion for our Nation's surface transportation needs. He is now one of the key architects of TEA LU.

"The State of Illinois would stand to make tremendous gains under TEA LU," said Lipinski. "It would mean more resources for highways, more for transit, more for bicyclists, more for pedestrians, more for commuters. It would mean more resources for the State of Illinois – the transportation hub for the country – to further improve our quality of life. However, it's not just more for the sake of more, it's about utilizing the additional resources more effectively to target congestion problems and infrastructure needs, and this bill would do just that."

TEA LU would provide a total of \$375 billion in new funding over six years – a 72 percent increase over current funding levels and a 52 percent increase over the Administration's reauthorization proposal. The introduced bill does not include a revenue or funding title.

For Illinois, TEA LU would provide a total of \$9.28 billion in formula highway funds and \$3.39 billion in formula transit funds. This would represent a substantial increase over the Administration's proposal, which would only provide Illinois with \$5.94 billion in highway funds and \$2.37 billion in transit funds. Under TEA-21, the current authorization, Illinois received \$5.56 billion in highway funds and \$1.95 billion in transit funds.

"When President George Herbert Walker Bush signed ISTEA into law in 1991, he called it a jobs bill," explained Lipinski. "With our dismal national economy, that statement is just as true today. What we have here is a \$375 billion jobs bill."

"This bill now sets the framework as we work to move this legislation forward," continued Lipinski. "This version of TEA LU shows what we can achieve with adequate revenues to produce a \$375 billion highway and transit bill. A tremendous amount of work was put in to get us to this point, but we still have a lot more to do."

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